



Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Children, Youth & Families • Department of Elderly Affairs • Department of Health •
Department of Human Services • Department of Mental Health, Retardation & Hospitals

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Tuesday, November 11, 2008

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Rhode Island Division of Veterans Affairs and Bristol Veterans Council Sponsor Annual Veterans Day Ceremonies

The Rhode Island Division of Veterans Affairs in partnership with the Bristol Veterans Council sponsored the state's Annual Veterans Day Ceremonies in Bristol, Rhode Island today. The solemn ceremonies date back to the 1918 World War I Armistice Treaty which established the ceasefire on the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour. Contemporary celebrations continue to mark the ceasefire and recognize the sacrifices that all veterans have made, and continue to make, for the freedom of our country.

"I am very pleased to host today's Veterans Day ceremony here at the Rhode Island Veterans Home," said Rick Baccus, Acting Administrator of the Rhode Island Veterans Home. "On this day we recognize and pay homage to all those men and women who served our country insuring our freedom."

Baccus, who delivered the keynote speech at the Veterans Day ceremony, spoke of the significance of Veterans Day, the history and beginning of the Rhode Island Veterans Home, and the vision for the future of the home. The Veterans Home provides skilled and semi-skilled nursing care, domiciliary, and transition program services to Veterans.

"I recognize how important this home is to our community of veterans," said Lita Orefice, Deputy Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. "I have worked hard over the last nine months to assemble a top notch leadership team for Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Home. All are veterans – they fully understand the needs of those they serve. Their sole focus is to support veterans and their families and improving their quality of life and I am very proud of what they have accomplished in their short tenure."

The ceremonies began with a wreath laying at the Burnside Building on Hope Street in Bristol. Although Veterans Day is not primarily designed to honor the dead, wreath laying is an integral component of any Veterans Day ceremony as it recognizes those who made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their life for their county. The ceremonies also included an ecumenical service in the Chapel at the Rhode Island Veterans Home led by Deacon Bernard G. Theroux.

The Division of Veterans Affairs consists of the Veterans Home located in Bristol, the Veterans Memorial Cemetery located in Exeter, and the Office of Veterans Affairs also located in Bristol. The Veterans Affairs program serves eligible Rhode Island veterans, their spouses, and dependents. Benefits include a comprehensive program of social, medical and rehabilitative services. The Veterans Memorial Cemetery is a dignified and honorable final resting place for our veterans and their families.

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